

(H) THE MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ~~OTHER--THAN--THE EXECUTIVE--DIRECTOR~~ SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES HEREUNDER, BUT EACH SUCH MEMBER SHALL BE PAID HIS NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED WHILE ENGAGED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF SUCH DUTIES, ~~IN--ACCORDANCE--WITH--THE STANDARD-TRAVEL-REGULATIONS.~~

(I) THE PARTICIPATING COUNTIES MAY GRANT, LOAN, OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER TO THE AUTHORITY, AND THE AUTHORITY MAY ACCEPT, FROM TIME TO TIME SUCH MONEYS, PROPERTY OR OTHER ASSETS AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO ENABLE THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE ITS OPERATIONS OR THOSE OF ANY PROJECT OR TO CARRY OUT ANY OF ITS CORPORATE PURPOSES.

(J) THE STAFF OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL CONSIST OF SUCH EMPLOYEES AS THE AUTHORITY MAY DETERMINE TO BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE AUTHORITY. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT AND REMOVE THE STAFF OF THE AUTHORITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS AND RESTRICTIONS OF A "MERIT SYSTEM" TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE AUTHORITY.

(K) WHENEVER THE AUTHORITY SHALL UNDERTAKE TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO OR WITHIN ANY PARTICIPATING COUNTY, SUCH COUNTY SHALL HAVE THE OPTION (WHICH OPTION MUST BE EXERCISED PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH UNDERTAKING) OF;

(1) DESIGNATING THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO, AT THE TIME OF THE TRANSFER, WERE ENGAGED PRIMARILY IN THE RENDERING OF SUCH SERVICE, WHEREUPON THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH EMPLOYEES WITH ALL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AND EQUIVALENT BENEFITS THAT SUCH EMPLOYEES THERETOFORE ENJOYED; OR

(2) NOT CERTIFYING TO THE AUTHORITY ANY EMPLOYEES FORMERLY ENGAGED IN PROVIDING THE "TAKE-OVER" SERVICES, BUT CONTINUING SUCH EMPLOYEES IN THE COUNTY'S EMPLOYMENT.

IN THE EVENT THAT ANY EMPLOYEE OF A COUNTY SO CERTIFIED TO THE AUTHORITY DOES NOT DESIRE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE AUTHORITY, SUCH EMPLOYEE SHALL BE GIVEN FIRST PRIORITY IN THE FILLING OF ANY VACANCY FOR WHICH HE OR SHE IS QUALIFIED AS DETERMINED BY THE HEAD OF SUCH COUNTY'S MERIT SYSTEM. IN THE EVENT THERE ARE NO VACANCIES, SUCH EMPLOYEE SHALL BE PLACED ON THE REEMPLOYMENT LIST AND SHALL BE GIVEN FIRST PREFERENCE IN THE FILLING OF ANY POSITION FOR WHICH SUCH PERSON IS QUALIFIED.

(L) IF THE AUTHORITY DETERMINES THAT THE PROVISION OF PENSION BENEFITS FOR ITS EMPLOYEES CANNOT BE EFFECTED PRACTICABLY BY MEANS OF THE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE EMPOWERED TO PROVIDE A PENSION BENEFIT FOR EMPLOYEES UPON THEIR RETIREMENT ON ACCOUNT OF AGE, SERVICE, OR DISABILITY, ~~---THE-AUTHORITY~~ AND SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTRACT WITH AN INSURANCE COMPANY OR OTHER APPROPRIATE BODY TO PROVIDE SUCH PENSION BENEFITS OR BY

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